

In the Specification:

Referring to the Substitute Specification filed November 25, 2003, and the line numbering marked in the left margin therein:

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 13 to 22, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

To achieve this object, the invention provides a respective disk-shaped body having slots as each deflecting element. Each disk-shaped body extends over the cross section of the housing chamber, and includes guiding elements which bound the slots, and which ~~[[are]]~~ have the form of guide vanes. The guide vanes of adjacent or successive disk-shaped bodies are respectively pitched or angled in opposite directions so as to deflect the flow in opposite directions with respect to the main axis of the housing.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 8 to 19, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

According to the exemplary embodiments illustrated in ~~[[figs]]~~ figs. 1 and 2, and 5, four deflecting elements 13, 14, 15 and 16 in the manner of impellers are provided as sound-absorbing or swirling elements. According to the exemplary embodiment, said deflecting elements can be pushed in each case by means of a bushing-shaped or annular hub part 17 onto the supporting pipe 11. They are arranged in a rotationally fixed or positionally fixed manner on the supporting pipe 11, it being possible for this to be achieved by a positive or non-positive connection between

the hub parts 17 and the supporting pipe 11 or else by a separate locking means.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 21 to page 9, line 10, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

Each deflecting element 13 to 16 in the manner of an impeller forms a muffler stage and has a plurality of guiding elements 18 in the manner of impellers or guide vanes. According to the exemplary embodiments illustrated in ~~[[figs]]~~ figs. 1 to 5, the deflecting elements 13 to 16' are in each case disk-shaped and slotted bodies 17' with in each case approximately 20 guiding elements 18 in the manner of guide vanes. The deflecting elements 13 and the disk-shaped slotted bodies 17' are expediently integral in each case with their guiding elements in the manner of guide vanes. They extend in the housing 2 as far as the cylindrical circumferential wall 6.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 3 to 14, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

In ~~[[figs]]~~ figs. 1 and 2, a comparatively short supporting pipe 11 (for four deflecting elements 13 to 16) is provided in conjunction with a comparatively long housing part 5 which could accommodate double or even triple the number of deflecting elements. It may therefore be expedient, in order to utilize the possibilities arising from the compact construction in conjunction with the variation in the number of deflecting elements, to provide for the head

element 3 different housing parts 2 and supporting pipes 11 having a graduated length which are then assembled as a function of the particular application.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, line 24 to page 13, line 6, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

According to the exemplary embodiments illustrated in ~~[[figs]]~~ figs. 1 and 5, four or five muffler stages 25 are provided in each case. However, more or fewer muffler stages 25 may also be arranged along the central supporting element 24 in accordance with the particular conditions.

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]